

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 OPIC-03 STR-07 TRSE-00
CEA-01 SS-15 INT-05 /148 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
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INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN
SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB - FIRST DAY

REFERENCE: A) GENEVA 12691, B) GENEVA 12860

1. SUMMARY: 18TH SESSION OF UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB) IS OFF TO SLOW START. DURING FIRST DAY (AUGUST 29) ONLY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS WERE ELECTION OF OFFICERS, FORMAL STATEMENT BY UNCTAD SYG GAMANI COREA, AND PROPOSAL BY PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR ARIAS-SCHREIDSR TO SET UP A CONTACT GROUP TO DISCUSS COPPER. TWO GROUP B MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD TO DISCUSS PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS AND MAKE SOME REVISIONS IN GERMAN DRAFT GROUP B STATEMENT (REF B) FOR PRESENTATION AUGUST 31. IT APPEARS G-77 NOT FULLY PREPARED FOR MEETING, AS IT REQUESTED THAT PLENARY MEETINGS BE CANCELLED AUGUST 30 TO PROVIDE A FULL DAY FOR GROUP
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CONSULTATIONS. THERE HAVE THUS FAR BEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT UNCTAD V AGENDA. THE EC-9 WILL CAUCUS MORNING OF AUGUST 30 IN EFFORT TO DEVELOP A COMMON POSITION ON IT. END SUMMARY.

2. COREA SPEECH - SYG COREA DEVOTED NEARLY ALL OF HIS OPENING 40-MINUTE SPEECH ON AUGUST 29 TO A POINT BY POINT

REVIEW OF THE SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT UNCTAD V AGENDA. COREA SAID UNCTAD V MUST BUILD UPON SIXTH AND SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSIONS OF UNGA, UNCTAD IV AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS TO ACHIEVE FURTHER PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. (NIEO). HE SAID THAT UNCTAD V MUST BUILD ON THE RESULTS OF UNCTAD IV, BUT MUST ALSO ENDORSE NEW ACTIONS AND APPROACHES TO DEAL WITH ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT HAVE EMERGED SINCE NAIROBI. COREA ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT UNCTAD WOULD FASHION INTERNATIONAL POLICIES FOR THE 1980S, AND SAID HE HAD PROPOSED A WIDE-RANGING ITEM FOR THE UNCTAD V AGENDA (ITEM NO. 2) THAT WOULD PERMIT CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERDEPENDENCE AND "THE NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE WORLD ECONOMY."

3. COREA THEN DISCUSSED EACH MAJOR POINT IN SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT UNCTAD V AGENDA. HE PLACED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS UPON COMMODITIES, INTERDEPENDANCE (ESPECIALLY ITS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS) AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ECDC). ON COMMODITIES, HE SAID THAT UNCTAD V MUST NOT ONLY REVIEW PROGRESS ON INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES (IPC) AND COMMON FUND, BUT MUST DEAL WITH QUESTIONS OF PROCESSING, LDC SHARES IN MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AND COMPENSATORY FINANCING FACILITIES, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS OTHER ASPECTS OF THE IPC. ON INTERDEPENDANCE OF TRADE, DEVELOPMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MONEY AND FINANCE, COREA EMPHASIZED NEED FOR A REFORMED INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM. WHILE HE RECOGNIZED THAT ACTUAL MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ELSEWHERE, COREA SAID THAT UNCTAD HAS CONTRIBUTED TO PAST DEBATES ON MONETARY QUESTIONS AND STATED THAT THERE IS A "PRESSING NEED" FOR UNCTAD V "TO EXPRESS ITSELF FORCEFULLY ON THIS ISSUE." ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, COREA SAID THAT UNCTAD V SHOULD BUILD ON RESULTS OF CODE OF CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS, PROVIDE A STRONG THRUST FOR TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION OF LDCS IN THE 1980S, AND FOCUS ON MEASURES FOR DEALING WITH REVERSE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY ("BRAIN DRAIN"). STRESSING THE NEED TO DEVELOP COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE AMONG LDCS, COREA SAID THAT ECDC SHOULD BE ONE OF MAJOR THEMES OF UNCTAD V. COREA VOTED PROTECTIONISM IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS AN ISSUE OF RISING CONCERN AND CALLED FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS AT UNCTAD V TO REDUCE SHORT TERM PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES AND TO ENCOURAGE LONG TERM STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE WORLD ECONOMY TO PERMIT GROWTH OF LDC MANUFACTURED EXPORTS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED UNCTAD V ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF IMPROVING GSP IN LIGHT OF MTN RESULTS.

4. NOTING POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF UNCTAD V OCCURRING ON

THRESHOLD OF 190 S, COREA EXPRESSED HOPE CONFERENCE WOULD MAKE LONG-TERM CONTRIBUTION TO CHARTING COURSE FOR FUTURE AND 1980 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA. WITHOUT MAKING ANY SPECIFIC INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS, COREA SAID UNCTAD V MUST ENSURE THAT UNCTAD IS SUITABLY EQUIPPED TO CARRY OUT ITS BROAD RESPONSIBILITIES. EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING PROGRESS BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT MAY IN NEGOTIATIONS ON A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, WHEAT, RUBBER AND A COMMON FUND, COREA SAID HE HOPES TO INFORM THE 18TH TDB OF THE RESULTS OF HIS COMMON FUND CONSULTATIONS AND OF HIS PROPOSED DATES FOR RESUMPTION OF CF NEGOTIATIONS.

4. COPPER - PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR ARIAS-SCHREIBER IS PRESSING

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FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACT GROUP AT TDB TO FACILITATE PREPARATIONS FOR FIFTH PREPARATORY MEETING ON COPPER (AND PROBABLY TO PROMOTE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A P/C FORUM FOR COPPER WITHIN UNCTAD). GROUP B HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT ARIAS-SCHREIBER'S PROPOSAL. SEPTTEL ON THIS ISSUE WILL FOLLOW.

5. OTHER BUSINESS - OFFICERS WERE ELECTED AS EXPECTED. VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR CASTELLANOS WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF 18TH TDB. AMONG THE 10 VICE PRESIDENTS ARE FOUR FROM

GROUP B COUNTRIES--FRG, AUSTRIA, CANADA AND US (MEISSNER)
AS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY AGREED. SUDANESE AMBASSADOR MAHGOUB
HAS BEEN NOMINATED BY THE G-77 TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF
SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I, AND FRENCH DELEGATE MARAIS HAS BEEN
NOMINATED BY GROUP B TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN FOR SESSIONAL
COMMITTEE II.

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6. ONLY SUBSTANTIVE MATTER DEALT WITH AUGUST 29 WAS
APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEM 1(D), SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL ON
ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING PARTY OF TDB AND UNCTAD PROGRAM
BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM PLAN. ACTION ON AGENDA ITEMS 5(D),
6(D), 7(C) AND 7(H) WERE POSTPONED AT REQUEST OF G-77.

7. AT LDC REQUEST, NO PLENARY SESSIONS SCHEDULED AUGUST 30.
GROUP B WILL MEET IN AFTERNOON TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF
UNCTAD V AGENDA. WE DO NOT PLAN TO REPORT AGAIN UNTIL
FOLLOWING AUGUST 31 PLENARY SESSION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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